

SERC Board of Directors Virtual Regular Meeting
Meeting Minutes
October 31, 2023
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairperson Agnes Quiñones, Diane Clare-Kearney, Jeff Leak, Richard Porth, Steve Higgins, Erin Benham, and Tom Swan.

Absent: Bryan Klimkiewicz

Others Present: Ingrid M. Canady, Executive Director; Marjorie Davis, Associate Director; Kristy Giacco, Program Services Director; Krystal Hewitt, Human Resources Manager; Michelle Weaver, Legal Counsel; Jackie Teulings, Chief Financial Officer and Jennifer LeBrun, SERC Executive Assistant

The meeting was live-streamed on CT-N.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Quiñones called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. and welcomed Steve Higgins to the SERC Board of Directors.

II. Public Comment*

No Public Comment

III. Approval of Draft Minutes of the August 29, 2023, Regular Meeting

"Motion to approve the draft minutes of the August 29, 2023, Regular Board Meeting."

Motion: Ms. Benham

Second: Mr. Leake

Vote on Motion:

In favor: 7 (Benham, Clare-Kearney, Quiñones, Porth, Leake, Higgins, Swan)

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

IV. Executive Session

No Executive Session

V. Action Item(s)

a. No Items Requiring Action

VI. Updates from Ingrid M. Canady, Executive Director

a. SERC Family Bamboza Event

On October 21, 2023, SERC, with collaborators from Family Community Engagement, hosted the first family and community event in its new building. *The Family Bombazo: Learning about Our Culture through Drumming, Storytelling, Dancing, and the Spoken Word* was held from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It was a combination of artists and performers. The event was fantastic, and the families had a great time. State Representatives from the area were also present. SERC is looking forward to future events.

b. Courageous Conversations Summit, Austin, TX

SERC has used the Courageous Conversations® framework as the foundation to engage in racialized discourse as we facilitate professional development with educators, community groups, and families for over 23 years. For the first time, because of a professional development grant, many SERC staff can attend this year's Courageous Conversations Summit in Austin, TX. Five SERC Consultants will present at the conference. One group will present on the Black/Latino Course of Studies Curriculum and another group about the connection between mental health and racial equity.

Conversation ensued.

c. SERC Holiday Tea – December 18, 2023

SERC is thrilled to be back together in person for our Annual Holiday Tea. Dr. Canady invited all Board Members to join the staff for the afternoon gathering. Additional information will be shared as the date gets closer.

d. Hiring Update – Krystal Hewitt, HR Manager

SERC currently has five vacancies. Ms. Hewitt anticipates that three openings will be filled within the next two weeks.

Vacancies can be found on the SERC website.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee

Ms. Teulings shared financial information through August 2023. Ms. Teulings reviewed the revenue, expenditures, and balance sheet statements.

Conversation ensued.

The financial fiscal reports are available for review on the SERC website.

b. Program Committee

Ms. Davis and Mr. Proffitt shared that all future Program Committee meetings will include a guest speaker(s) in order for Board Members to learn more about specific SERC programs and our work with districts and communities.

Today's guests, Irene Parisi, CSDE's Chief Academic Officer, and Paul Castiglione, CSDE's Project Manager, provided an overview of the GoOpenCT, the State Department of Education's new online digital library for educators.

Ms. Parisi and Mr. Castiglione reviewed the website and how to navigate it.

Please visit <https://goopenct.org> for more information.

Conversation ensued.

c. Operations Committee

Ms. Weaver shared that the October Operations Committee meeting will be rescheduled. The Committee will meet in November. They are working on the revised Employee Handbook, which should be ready for final approval in four to six weeks.

Conversation ensued.

VIII. Updates from Dr. Agnes Quiñones, Chairperson

a. Appointment of Vice-Chair

Chairperson Quiñones encouraged all Board Members to think about filling the vacant role of Vice-Chair. It is a vital position to ensure a level of continuity in the event that the Chair is unable to attend a meeting. The Vice-Chair position is an internal selection amongst the members of the Board.

Interested members should email Chair Quiñones with a cc: to Jennifer LeBrun, Executive Assistant.

Conversation ensued.

b. Board Retreat – Future date

Ms. LeBrun will send a new doodle poll with date options.

The retreat will focus on the development of a five-year plan.

IX. SERC Foundation Update

a. Update from Marjorie Davis, Associate Director, SERC

Ms. Davis shared that the Foundation received a generous donation of \$3,000 from Dr. Marianne Kirner and Mr. Michael Kirner in memory of three former SERC employees, Dr. David R. Grice, Dr. Beth Kurker-Stewart, and Kristina Jones Jordan.

The Foundation submitted an application to the Graustein Memorial Fund on October 14, 2023, for programming for the 2024-2025 year.

Planning is underway for the 2024 Dismantling Systemic Racism Conference. It will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at the CT Convention Center. Please save the date.

Conversation ensued.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

If you wish to join the public meeting and/or speak during public comment, please email Jennifer LeBrun at lebrun@ctserc.org for the meeting link. If you would like Board Members to receive a copy of your remarks, please email them to Ms. LeBrun 24 hours before the meeting. Each speaker is limited to three minutes.